

**WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
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May 28, 2014

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States Congress
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510


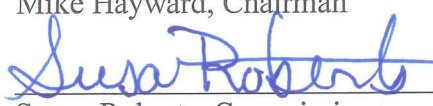
Dear Congressman Walden,

We would like to take this opportunity to comment on your Travel Management Bill, H.R. 4272. You are very aware of the anguish and hostility that was displayed in Northeast Oregon when the Forest Service rolled out their Travel Management Plan. That plan, with its tremendous overreach, looked for solutions for problems that don't exist was the epitome of federal government agencies usurping local government's authority and trampling on the rights of our citizens. H.R. 4272 would prevent that draconian approach from happening in the future.

Wallowa County's approach to the Travel Management Rule was to complete a roads analysis on all of the National Forest roads. Thirty three volunteers spent days driving and analyzing the roads based on 17 criteria. That information resulted in the Wallowa County Travel Management Plan that was adopted into our local Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The information was also submitted to the Forest Service for inclusion in their plan, but was largely ignored. Our citizens will not tolerate the Forest Service heavy handedness of travel management, the resources on the National Forest do not necessitate such an approach and H.R. 4272 would correct this very real problem in Northeast Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation. We look forward to continuing the dialogue on federal land management issues and policy decisions.

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Paul Castilleja, Commissioner